## SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

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## DETROIT AREA SENATORS PRAISE \$100 MILLION IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

LANSING—Detroit area senators announced yesterday a \$100 million investment in public transportation for Southeastern Michigan.

"Public transportation is vital to the economic health of any city," said Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit). "This funding will help spur development and create jobs, both directly and as a result of improved infrastructure."

A deal between Governor Granholm and the Legislature increased the likelihood of rapid mass transit between Detroit and Ann Arbor. A Federal Transportation Reauthorization earmarked \$100 million for preliminary engineering of the Ann Arbor to Detroit light rail project.

"These types of projects are not only significant economic development, but they provide job opportunities for many Detroit area residents," Sen. Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) said. "And the results will be improved transportation routes that will benefit the entire area. It's definitely a WIN/WIN for everyone."

The investment is dependent on local communities demonstrating to the federal government their ability to provide a constant revenue stream sufficient to build and run the project. This could be done in a number of ways, including a long-term millage. Pending legislation gives municipalities the ability to extend transportation millages from the current 5 year limit to 25 years.

"Safe, efficient transportation is key to economic growth and development," said Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit). "This investment will benefit Detroit and our entire state by increasing access to a major economic hub of the Midwest."